Zabukowski Software

Nebula Setups 2

User's Manual

revision 6, updated to v2.5.1

http://www.zabukowski.com/software

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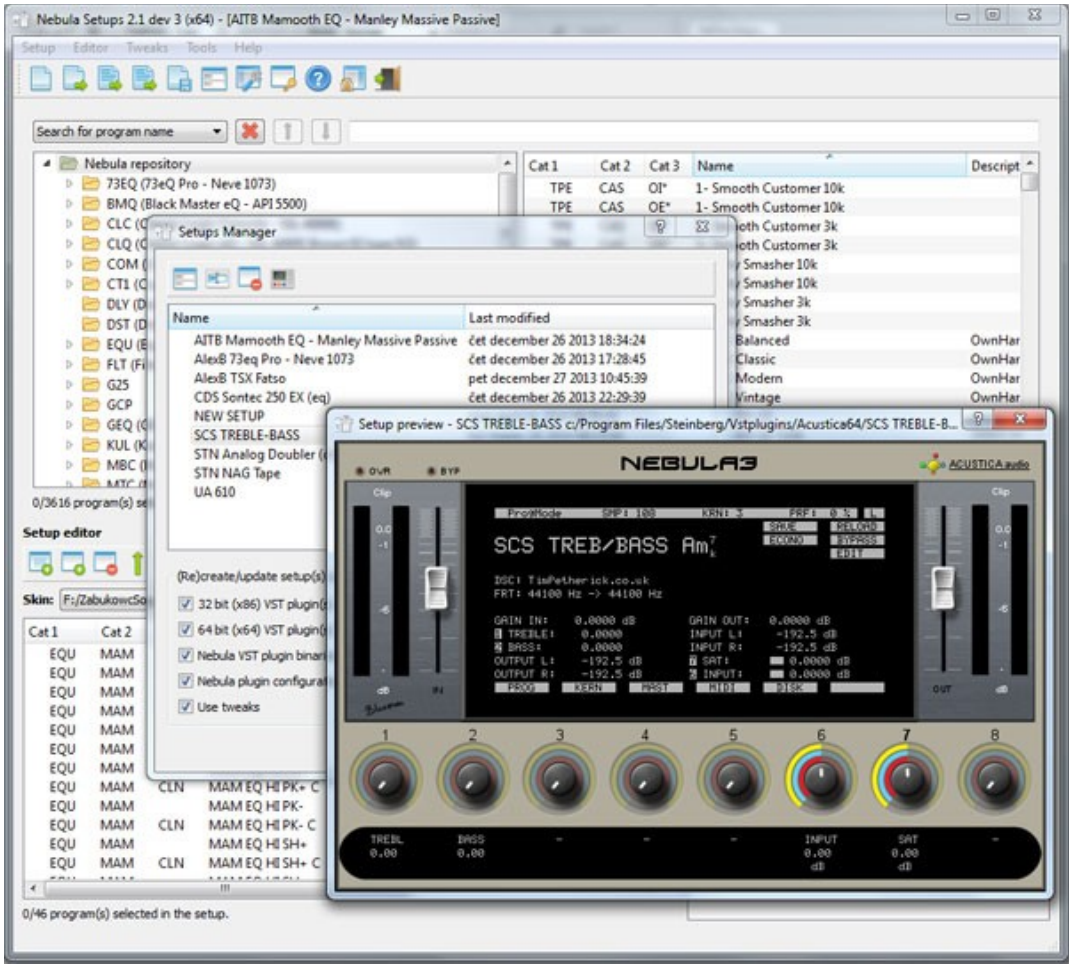
What is Nebula Setups ?

Nebula Setups is a standalone program, which allows you to create custom copies/versions of the original Acustica Audio Nebula plugin (VST, AU). Each copy of the plugin (so called setup) can have its own program list. This means that you can have, for example, one separate Nebula instance for equalizers, another for compressors, third for tapes etc. Another popular approach is to make a separate setup/plugin for each Nebula library.


Nebula Setups 2.1 dev 3 (x64) - [AITB Mamooth EQ - Manley Massive Passive]
Setups Manager
Setup preview - SCS TREBLE-BASS c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica64/SCS TREBLE-B...
NEBULA3
SCS TREB/BASS Am7
Setup editor
0/46 program(s) selected in the setup.

Additional setup features:

- can have its own skin
- can automatically load a Nebula program/preset at initialization
- contain changed/tweaked Nebula parameters

Setups based work-flow can extremely enhance your experience with Nebula plugin in your DAW program, especially when a number of installed libraries / presets gets larger. Greatly sped up loading time and better overview and organization of your Nebula repository are some of the most important advantages over standard Nebula 'one-for-all' plugin approach.

Nebula Setups runs on *Windows* and *Mac OS X* compatible computers. If you want to use it, you should first install and authorize Nebula software on your computer. Version of installed Nebula software must be 1.3.7xx or greater.

32 (x86) and 64 (x64) bit versions of Nebula Setups are available for Windows and 64 (x64) bit version is available for Mac OS X. Each version is able to create setups for both x86 and x64 architectures.

In addition to 32 and 64 bit VST setups, Nebula Setups can now also create 64 bit AU (Audio Units) setups on Mac OS X.

Installation

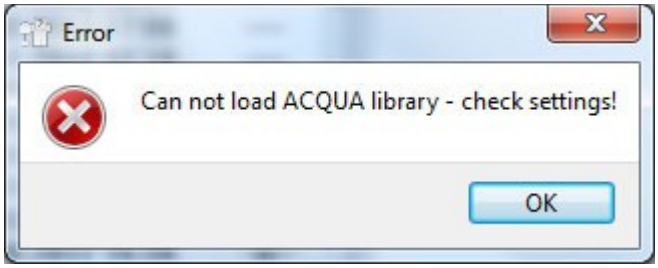
- *Windows:* run Nebula Setups installation executable (.exe) and follow the instructions on the screen.
- *Mac OS X:* mount Nebula Setups disk image (.dmg), run installation package (.mpkg) and follow instructions on the screen

Uninstalling

- *Windows:* use the standard uninstall procedure ('Uninstall a program'). User data (setups etc.) will not not be deleted.
- *Mac OS X:* delete Nebula Setups application file from '**/Applications**' folder

First start and basic setup

When executed for the first time, Nebula Setups will show you an ACQUA initialization error. Not really an error, this means that access to the Nebula/ACQUA is not yet available. Program needs it in order to show contents of Nebula repository (Nebula presets). You have to select the appropriate Nebula configuration file, which will then be used within Nebula Setups. Click OK to continue.



Open '**Preferences**' dialog (menu option '**File/Preferences**' on Windows or '**NebulaSetups2 / Preferences**' on Mac OS X), select '**General**' tab and look for the '**Nebula repository configuration**' parameter at the top. Click on the button with a folder icon and a dialog window will show up.

Windows: navigate to the '**Acustica**' folder inside your '**vstplugins**' folder (for example '**c:\Program Files\Steinberg\Vstplugins\Acustica**'). Select file '**Nebula3 Reverb.xml**' and select '**Open**' button.

Mac OS X : navigate to the '**Acustica**' folder inside your '**VST**' plugins folder (for example '**/library/audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica**'). Select file '**Nebula3 Reverb.xml**' and select '**Open**' button

Select 'OK' to confirm changes. You will now see the Nebula engine being initialized (assuming configuration file you've selected is correct). Installed Nebula categories and programs (Nebula repository contents) will show up and become available in the Nebula Setups. First-time loading of your ACQUA configuration may be slower than you expect, this is completely normal. This load-time will be much quicker after the first time (until you need to change the configuration file, if that ever happens).

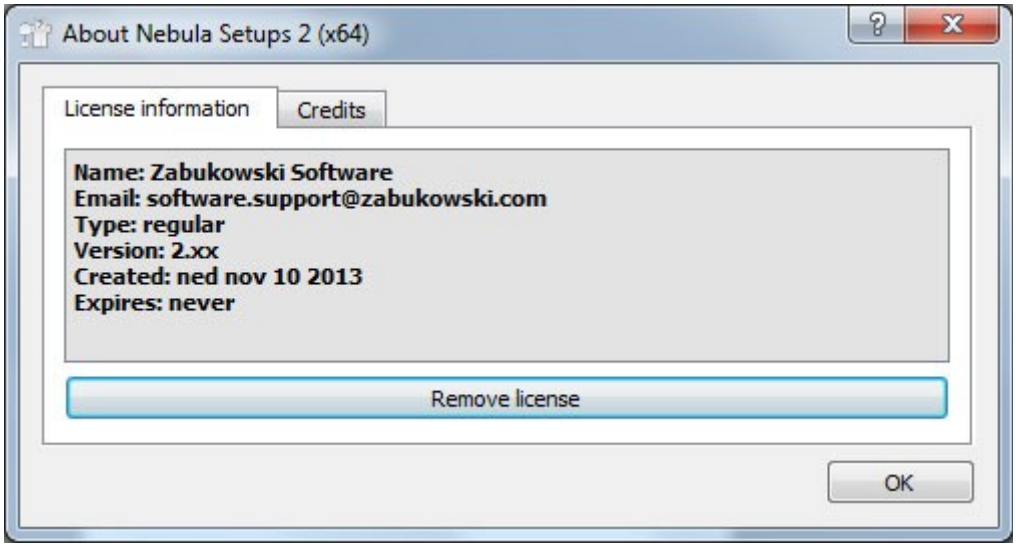
There are many other important settings (located on the '**Preferences**' dialog), which are required to be set properly before creating and saving setups. This fact will be often emphasized in this document, because of its extreme importance. For further explanation, see **Preferences**.

Registration/license installation

Nebula Setups requires a valid license file to run. If the license file is not found, invalid or expired, Nebula Setups will continue to run with limited functionality. This means that some important functions will not be available (loading and importing setups, Setups Manager, ACQUA plugins manager etc.). Basic setup creating is still possible, even without a valid license installed.

Once you acquire the license file, save it to a temporary folder of your choice, run Nebula Setups and select menu option '**Help/About Nebula Setups**' on Windows or '**NebulaSetups2/About NebulaSetups2**' on Mac OS X. A license information dialog will show up. Click on the '**Install license**' button and select the previously saved license file from your temporary folder. When the license is imported, its data is displayed in the dialog window. If you want to remove the license from Nebula Setups, use the same button.

Note: when the license is already installed, the button is labeled '**Remove license**'.



The same license file works on all supported operating systems. You can install your license on any computer, which has your licensed copy of Nebula software installed.

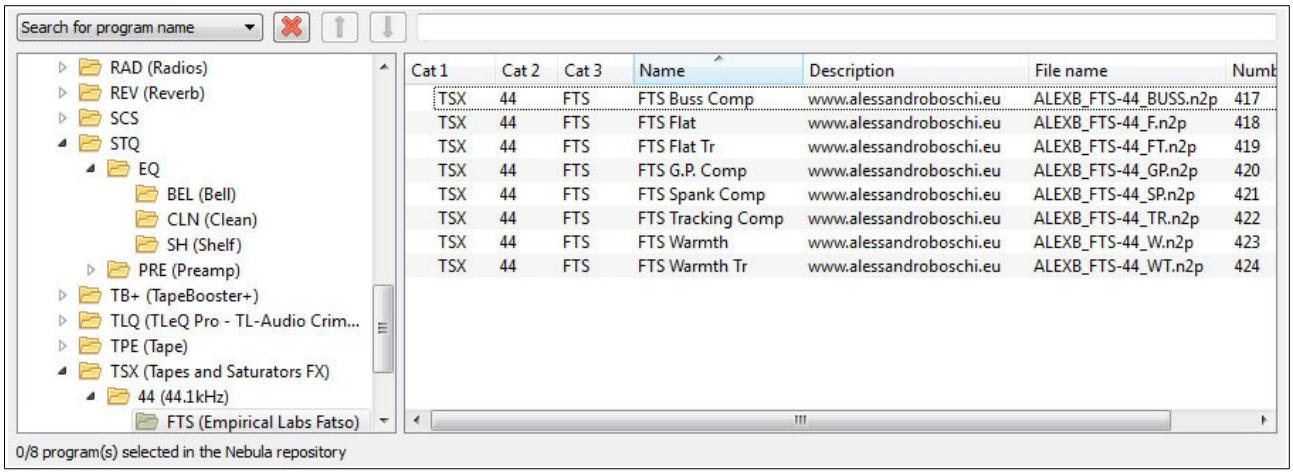
Nebula Setups user interface

Main program's window is divided into the repository browser on the top and a setup editor with tweaks list at the bottom. There are main menu, tool bars and context menus (mouse right-click) available.

Creating a setup

Creating a setup is in fact a very simple task. Basically, it goes like this: find and select desired programs with the repository browser, add them to a setup editor, select skin and default/auto-load program, tweak setup's parameters if needed and save setup.

Nebula repository browser


Search for program name
RAD (Radios)
REV (Reverb)
SCS
STQ
EQ
BEL (Bell)
CLN (Clean)
SH (Shelf)
PRE (Preamp)
TB+ (TapeBooster+)
TLQ (TLeQ Pro - TL-Audio Crim...
TPE (Tape)
TSX (Tapes and Saturators FX)
44 (44.1kHz)
FTS (Empirical Labs Fatso)
Cat 1 Cat 2 Cat 3 Name Description File name Numb
TSX 44 FTS FTS Buss Comp www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_BUSS.n2p 417
TSX 44 FTS FTS Flat www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_F.n2p 418
TSX 44 FTS FTS Flat Tr www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_FT.n2p 419
TSX 44 FTS FTS G.P. Comp www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_GP.n2p 420
TSX 44 FTS FTS Spank Comp www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_SP.n2p 421
TSX 44 FTS FTS Tracking Comp www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_TR.n2p 422
TSX 44 FTS FTS Warmth www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_W.n2p 423
TSX 44 FTS FTS Warmth Tr www.alessandroboschi.eu ALEXB_FTS-44_WT.n2p 424
0/8 program(s) selected in the Nebula repository

To find and select a desired Nebula program(s), use repository browser, located at the top of the main window. It consists of a category tree (left) and program list (right). The later contains the categories, name, description, file name and number of each program. Columns can be reordered and re-sized

If the root node (named Nebula repository) of the category tree is selected, all programs from the repository will be shown on the right. Otherwise, only the programs which belong to the selected category will be shown.

You can change this behavior using option '**Show programs from subcategories**', found on '**Preferences**' dialog ('**General**' tab). If checked, programs from current category and all its subcategories will be shown on the right.

To expand or collapse the complete tree, use '**Expand all**' and '**Collapse**' options, found in the tree's context menu (mouse right-click).

If you can't find a desired program(s) quickly, use a search tool. Above the category tree there is a drop down selection box, where you can define search mode. You can search by a program name, description or category only. In any mode, you must define text to be found by entering it in the text field to the right of the drop-down menu. If program name or description search is selected, the program list on the right will display only the programs, which names/descriptions contain the specified search text.

Note: if the program list is already filtered because a non-root category is selected in the category tree, searching will be limited to the already selected category. If you want to search through the whole repository, select the root category first.

When category search is selected, search will be performed inside the category tree. There are '**Find next occurrence**' and '**Find previous occurrence**' buttons to help you browse through the search results.

If needed, use the red-cross button to quickly reset search text parameter.

Selecting and adding Nebula programs to a setup

To select ...

- a single program, just click on it in the repository's program list
- multiple programs, click on the first desired program and then use **[Shift**] or **[Command]/[Ctrl]** + mouse click to add an additional programs to the selection

To add selected program(s) to the current setup, do one of the following things:

- drag selected programs from repository's program list and drop them into setup editor
- use option '**Add selected program(s)**', which can be found on:
  - main window's '**Editor**' menu
  - context menu of the browser's program list
  - setup editor's toolbar and context menu

Alternatively, you can add a whole category, including all its subcategories, at once using option '**Add program(s) from selected category**'. In this case, you don't have to previously select program(s), just select category in the category tree.

This option can be found on:
  - main window's '**Editor**' menu

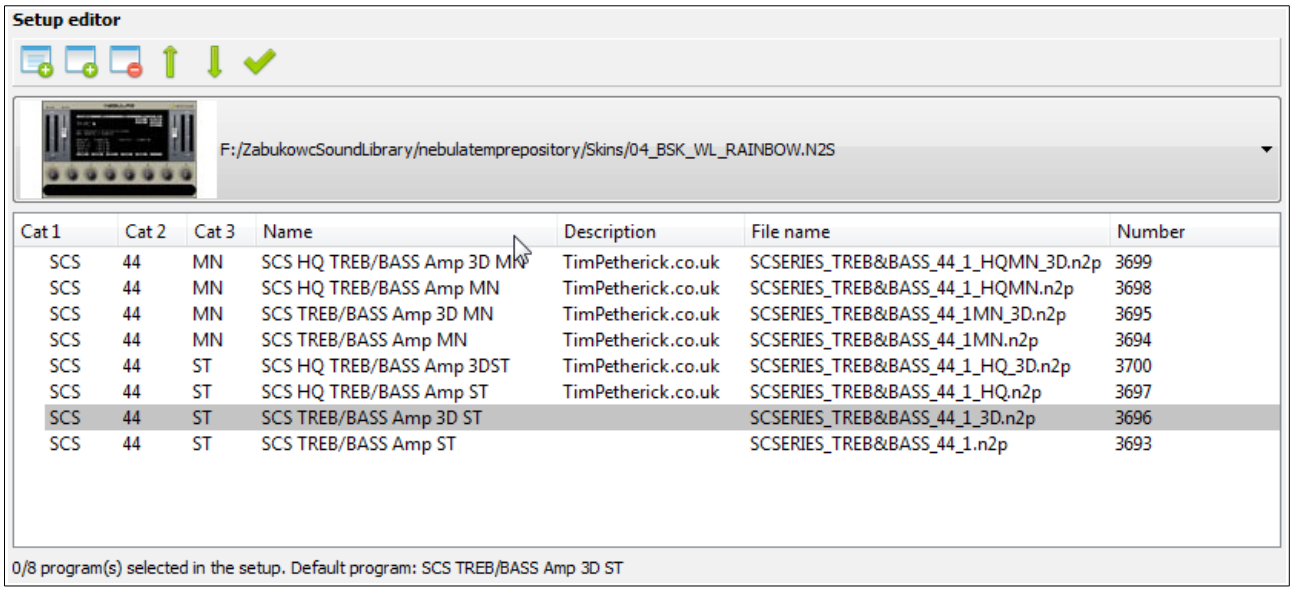
- context menu of the browser's category tree
- setup editor's toolbar and context menu

For each added program, its categories, name, description, file name and number will be displayed in a single row.

Multiple instances/duplicates of the same program are not allowed within a single setup. If a duplicate program is encountered while adding program(s), operation is canceled as a whole.

Setup editor in detail

- displays the actual contents of the current setup
- it consists of a toolbar, s skin selector and a program list
- setup's skin can be selected from the list of the installed Nebula skins
- program(s) can be added, deleted and reordered
- additional information about each program in the program list is available (categories, name, description, file name and number)
- default (auto-load) program can be selected – its name is shown in the status line
- columns in the program list can be reordered and re-sized


Setup editor
F:/ZabukowcSoundLibrary/nebulatemprepository/Skins/04_BSK_WL_RAINBOW.N2S
Cat 1 Cat 2 Cat 3 Name Description File name Number
SCS 44 MN SCS HQ TREB/BASS Amp 3D MN TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1_HQMN_3D.n2p 3699
SCS 44 MN SCS HQ TREB/BASS Amp MN TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1_HQMN.n2p 3698
SCS 44 MN SCS TREB/BASS Amp 3D MN TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1MN_3D.n2p 3695
SCS 44 MN SCS TREB/BASS Amp MN TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1MN.n2p 3694
SCS 44 ST SCS HQ TREB/BASS Amp 3DST TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1_HQ_3D.n2p 3700
SCS 44 ST SCS HQ TREB/BASS Amp ST TimPetherick.co.uk SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1_HQ.n2p 3697
SCS 44 ST SCS TREB/BASS Amp 3D ST SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1_3D.n2p 3696
SCS 44 ST SCS TREB/BASS Amp ST SCSERIES_TREB&BASS_44_1.n2p 3693
0/8 program(s) selected in the setup. Default program: SCS TREB/BASS Amp 3D ST

The following options are available in the editor's program list:

Option	Description
Add program(s) from selected category	Add program(s) from selected category (including all subcategories) to the setup editor. Keyboard shortcut: [C]
Add selected program(s)	Add selected program(s) from the browser's program list to the setup editor. Keyboard shortcut: [A]
Delete selected program(s)	Delete selected program(s) from setup editor. Keyboard shortcut: [Backspace]
Move selected program(s) up	Move selected program(s) in setup editor one row up.
Move selected program(s) down	Move selected program(s) in setup editor one row down.
(Un)set default program	(Un)set (toggle) a program, which will be automatically loaded when setup/plugin is initialized in DAW program. Program is shown with reverse color text. Keyboard shortcut: [[Command]/[Ctrl]+[D]. You can use mouse double-click as well.

All options can be found on the editor's toolbar, context menu and main '**Editor**' menu.

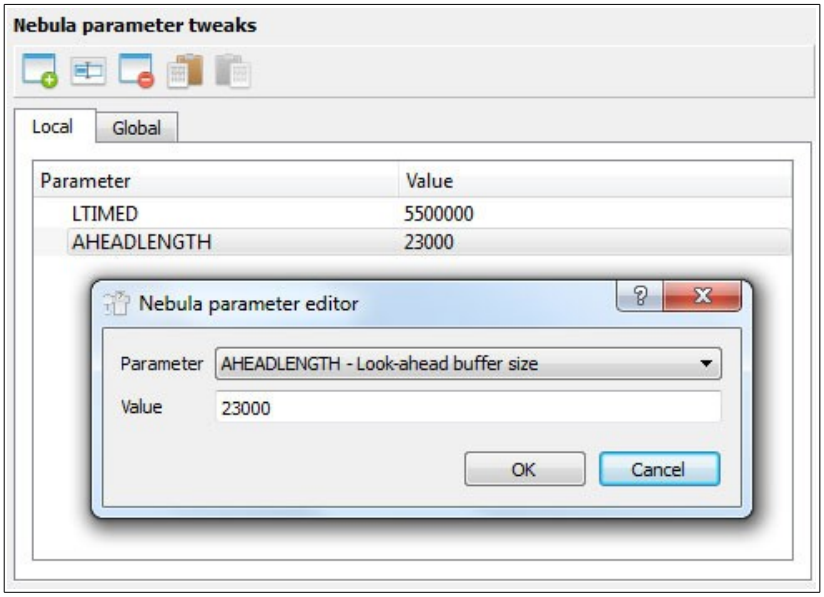
Programs in the setup editor can be reordered using "drag and drop" as well. Reordering programs makes sense only, when programs belong to the same categories and category levels

Skin thumbnails (images) are **NOT** generated automatically for each skin in the repository. Nebula Setups comes with more than 100 pre-made skin thumbnails and new ones are being added constantly. If you see '**No image**' thumbnail, there is no proper image available for this particular skin, yet. You can manually make your own skin thumbnails if necessary – make a **jpg** file with fixed size **256 x 128** pixels, white background is preferred and skin image should be centered. Thumbnail must be saved into **Thumbnails\Skins**' sub-folder of the Nebula Setups common folder.

Tweaking Nebula parameters

Tweaking/tuning Nebula parameters (engine) for a specific functionality (compression for example) or performance/sound quality improvement is a known practice and necessity for many advanced Nebula users. Usually, parameters can be changed within Nebula plugin (settings) or by directly editing Nebula XML configuration files with text editor.

Nebula Setups offers a very elegant and simple tweaking using a Tweaks list (Nebula parameter tweaks). It is located at the lower right side of the main window.



There are two kinds of Nebula tweaks available: **Global** and **Local**.

Tweak type	Description
Global	• they are a part of the global Nebula Setups preferences • they are applied to **EVERY** saved setup • they override default Nebula parameters
Local	• they are a part of the setup, which defines them • they are applied **ONLY** to the setup, which defines them • they override default Nebula parameters **AND** global tweaks

Tweaks list in detail

Following rules apply to both types of tweaks.

- list should contain tweaked parameters only
- strange and unexpected things may happen when loading Nebula plugin

with incorrect parameters/settings, so tweaking must be done with a great care
- before tweaking, make sure you 100% know what you are doing and why you are doing it
- most of the available Nebula parameters should never be changed at all
- there is absolutely no control of parameter values (make sure you enter a valid parameter value)
- duplicated tweaks are not allowed
- the order of the tweaks in the list can be changed using a mouse drag and drop – moving multiple items at once is supported
- reusing the same tweaks list for the multiple setups is easy using copy/paste operation

The following options are available in the tweaks list:

Option	Description
Add Nebula parameter	You can choose any parameter from a drop down list. The list contains all existing Nebula parameters, known from the standard Nebula XML configuration files. Only one instance of each parameter is allowed.
Edit Nebula parameter	Edit/tweak value of the currently selected parameter. You can also double click on a current parameter in the list to edit it.
Delete selected Nebula parameter(s)	Delete selected parameter(s) from the list.
Copy Nebula parameter(s)	Copy selected parameters to the clipboard. Keyboard shortcut: [[Command]/[Ctrl]+[C].
Paste Nebula parameter(s)	Paste copied parameters from the clipboard. Pasted items are always appended to the end of the list. Keyboard shortcut: [[Command]/[Ctrl]+[V].

All options can be found on the tweak list's toolbar, context menu and main '**Tweaks**' menu.

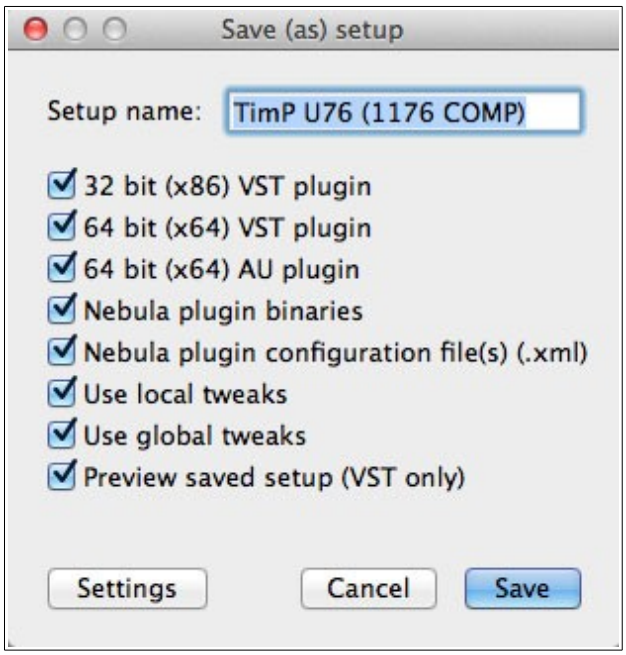
Tweaking following parameters will have no effect:

- **SKINNAME**
- **SETUPROMNAME**
- **SCANBOOT**

These parameters will always be internally overwritten with values, which guarantee proper setup configuration and functionality.

Saving a setup

Don't forget, that setup can be successfully saved only, if program's preferences are set properly (see **Preferences**).



With every save operation, specified program list, local/global tweaks, skin etc., are transformed into an actual plugin(s), ready for use in DAW programs.

Most of the setup's components can be saved separately – for example, only plugin binaries can be updated, without affecting plugin's configuration files(s) etc.

There is also a button for quick access to the settings window, if you need to do last moment changes.

Following options are available when saving a setup.

Option	Description
Setup name	Setup's name. This name will be used for all associated setup files including VST plugin(s). If a setup with this name already exists, it will be overwritten after confirmation.
32 bit (x86) VST plugin	If checked, 32 bit (x86 architecture) VST version of a setup plugin will be created in VST format.
64 bit (x64) VST plugin	If checked, 64 bit (x64 architecture) VST version of a setup plugin will be created.
64 bit (x64) AU plugin	Mac OSX only - if checked, 64 bit (x64 architecture) Audio Units version of a setup plugin will be created.
Nebula plugin binaries	If checked, plugin binary file(s) will be created for selected architecture(s) and format(s) (see previous options)
Nebula plugin configuration file(s) (.xml)	If checked, plugin configuration file(s) will be created for selected architecture(s) (see previous options)
Use local tweaks	If checked, local tweaks will be used in saved setup/plugin. They will override existing, default Nebula values AND global tweaks as well.
Use global tweaks	If checked, global tweaks will be used in saved setup/plugin. They will override existing, default Nebula values.
Preview saved setup	If checked, a preview of the saved setup will be opened in a

	separate window. This is the actual Nebula VST plugin, which represents the saved setup. You can check setup's program list, skin etc. here, without opening your DAW. Preview of AU plugins is not supported.

When a setup is saved, you can check/test it immediately. Open your DAW program and load a plugin, which has the same name as saved setup. You can repeat this procedure for all chosen architectures and formats (VST, AU).

Some 'behind the scenes' technical info: when a setup (with all options checked) is saved, a copy of the base Nebula plugin(s) and its configuration file(s) is made with a name equal to setup's name. Program list with auto-load setting is created in Nebula's local setups directory. A plugin's configuration file is adapted to the new setup as well. Finally, global and local tweaks are applied to the newly created setup configuration file (see **Preferences**).

Audio Units setup format specifics

From the end user perspective, creating AU based setups is almost the same as creating VST based setups. But behind the scenes, there is much more going on. AU plugins (components) can not be just simply duplicated and renamed (as is the case with VST plugins) without some additional "dirty" work, which is done automatically for you by the program.

Check the **Nebula Setups** tab in **Preferences** window. There are three options at the bottom, where AU related info should be specified in the similar way as with VST setups.

To avoid any protection issues, AU setups should be stored in user's components directory (/Users/{username}/Library/Audio/Plug-ins/Components). To access this directory, you should have **user's Library** folder visible on your computer. Please read this article for example, if you don't know how to do it: http://www.macobserver.com/tmo/article/mavericks-easily-make-user-library-folder-visible

Make sure every setup has unique **MAGIC** string defined as local tweak. If not, your setup will almost certainly not be properly detected by the host. Select **Add Nebula parameter** option in **Nebula parameter tweaks** window and add **MAGIC – VST/AU plugin ID** parameter.

- MAGIC value must be exactly 4 bytes long
- it can consist of any combination of letters and digits
- it is case sensitive

There is no automatic tracking of these values at the moment, so you'll have to keep track of this yourself for now. Note, that this magic number will be used for the VST version(s) of the setup as well. If MAGIC is not specified with AU setup, program will inform you about it when saving a setup.

Each new setup detected by AU host (Logic X for example) will be automatically validated. If you have trouble with validation, **delete audio units cache file** and run host again. This will force all plugins to be re-scanned and validated from the scratch.

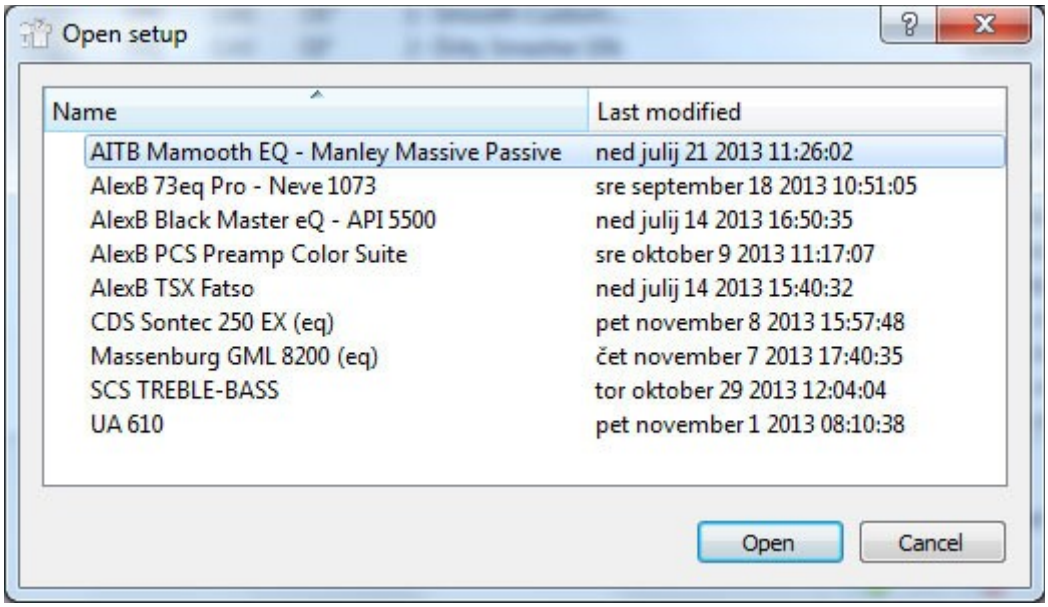
Cache file path:
/Users/{username}/Library/Caches/AudioUnitCache/com.apple.audiounits.cache

If your setup is not detected by host and you are 100% sure it exists in the correct folder, check if its magic number is missing or it is duplicated. When

renaming AU setups, system restart is often required for setups to be properly detected.

Opening a setup (full version only)

Saved setups can be opened with Nebula Setups anytime later for further editing. Associated option '**Setup/Open**' can be found on the main menu and toolbar.


Open setup
Name
Last modified
AITB Mamooth EQ - Manley Massive Passive
ned julij 21 2013 11:26:02
AlexB 73eq Pro - Neve 1073
sre september 18 2013 10:51:05
AlexB Black Master eQ - API 5500
ned julij 14 2013 16:50:35
AlexB PCS Preamp Color Suite
sre oktober 9 2013 11:17:07
AlexB TSX Fatso
ned julij 14 2013 15:40:32
CDS Sontec 250 EX (eq)
pet november 8 2013 15:57:48
Massenburg GML 8200 (eq)
čet november 7 2013 17:40:35
SCS TREBLE-BASS
tor oktober 29 2013 12:04:04
UA 610
pet november 1 2013 08:10:38
Open
Cancel

Importing a setup (full version only)

Program provides two import options, which will help you to import your old, legacy setups (created manually or with Set-ups 1 program). This way they will become tracked setups (see **Setups Manager**) and their further management will be much more simple.

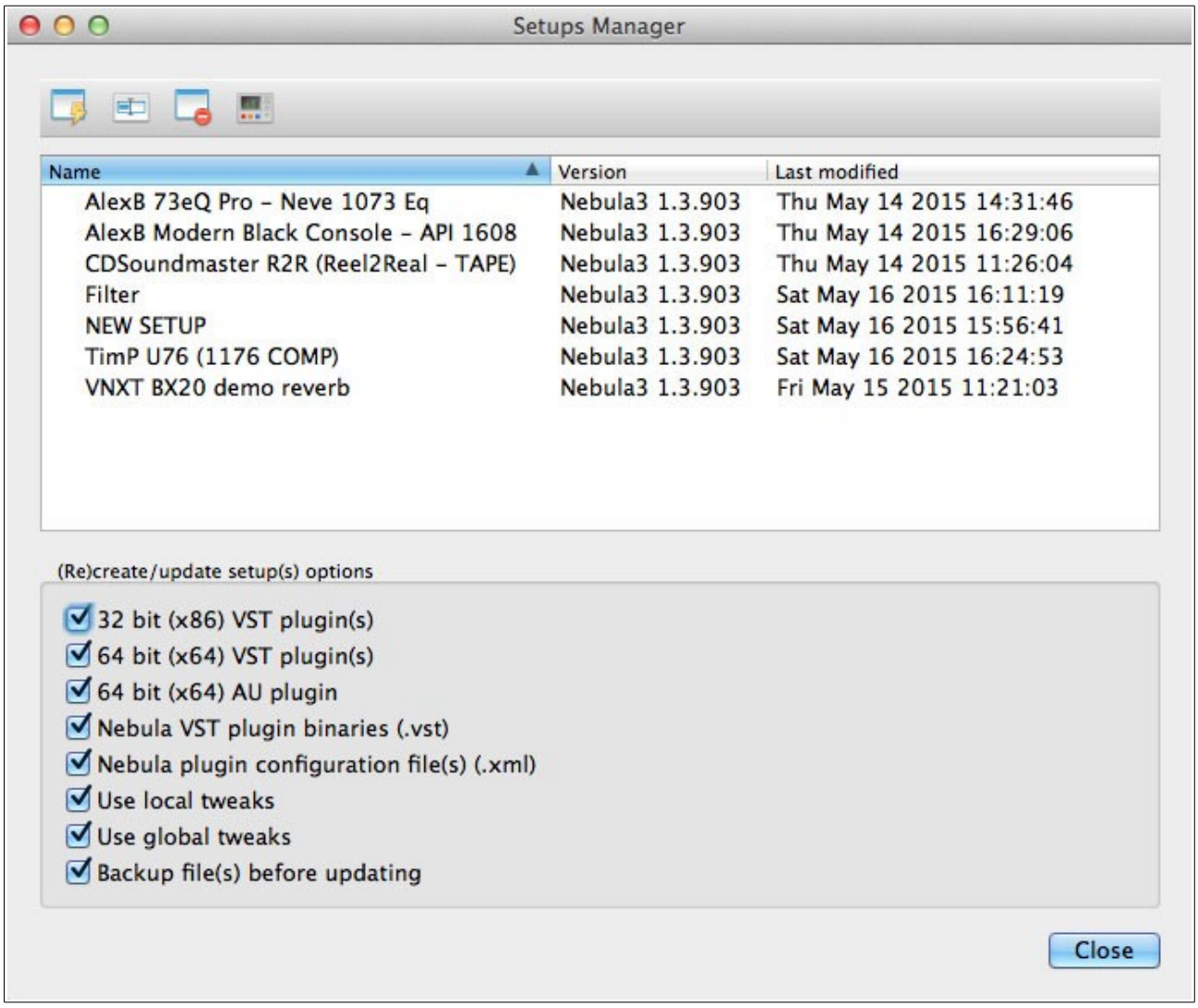
There are two import options available:

Option	Description
Import program list	This option will import raw program list (XML file usually found in the setups sub folder of the Nebula Repository). Information about auto-load program will also be imported. Finally, you can select a skin and save everything together as a new, tracked setup.
Import setup from Nebula configuration file (Set-ups 1)	Option will import a complete setup from the Nebula plugin's XML configuration file. The program list, auto-load program information and skin name will all be imported. This is a preferred way to import manually created setups or the ones, created with Nebula Set-ups 1.x program. When saving imported setup, the original names of the setup files (plugins and configuration files) will be retained, so they will be visible in your DAW as before. Note: if necessary, the program list file in the Nebula Repository setups sub folder will be renamed to match the setup's name. This is to avoid possible confusion with the file names and something you don't need to bother with at at all.

Import options can be found on the main toolbar and '**Setup**' menu.

Setups Manager (full version only)

One of the major advantages of the Setups 2 program is a setup tracking. The program remembers (keeps track), which setups were created with it. Because of this, (re)creating complete setups or updating setup's plugins with the new Nebula version for example, is now very simple task using Setups Manager (found in main toolbar and menu '**Tools/Setups Manager**', keyboard shortcut: [M]).

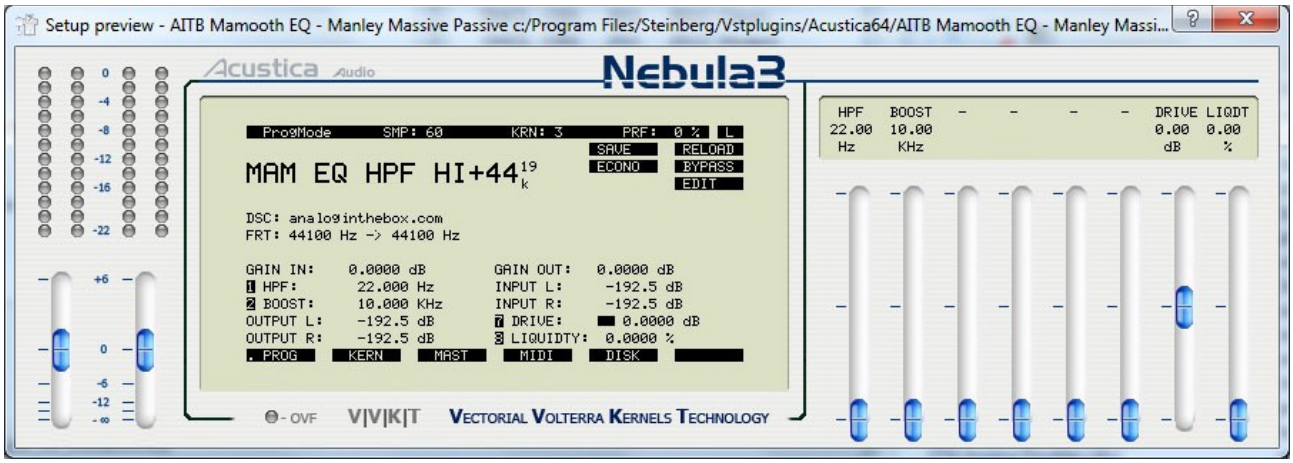


When opened, Setups Manager will show all available/tracked setups. Version info and the date of the last modification are also available for each setup on the list. By default, all setups are selected, but you can select only the ones you wish (using standard mouse/keyboard selecting procedures).

After the desired setups are selected, you may use following options (using toolbar or mouse right-click context menu):

Option	Description
Update or (re)create setup(s)	This will create (if non existing) or update / overwrite all your setups in the same way as if you would save them manually within the program. Before update, set options found at the bottom of the window. You will recognize most of the options, which are the same as when manually saving a setup. Carefully read warnings and proceed when you are sure. When operation is completed, a list (log) of the processed setups is displayed.
Rename a setup	Rename currently selected setup to a new name. Note: a single setup must be selected for this operation (renaming of multiple setups at once is not supported).
Delete setup(s)	Delete selected setup(s). Note: this destructive operation can not be undone, so be careful and don't forget to backup your stuff. When you delete a setup, all of its files will be permanently deleted (including common folder files, plugin files and Nebula repository setup files.
Preview selected setup	Preview of the selected setup will be opened in a separate window. This is the actual Nebula VST plugin, which represents the saved setup. You can check setup's program list, skin etc. here, without opening your DAW. Preview of AU plugins is not supported.

Example of setup preview in Nebula VST plugin form, using **Preview selected setup option**:


Setup preview - AITB Mamooth EQ - Manley Massive Passive c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica64/AITB Mamooth EQ - Manley Massi...
Acustica Audio
Nebula3
ProgMode SMP: 60 KRN: 3 PRF: 0 % L
SAVE RELOAD
ECONO BYPASS
EDIT
MAM EQ HPF HI+44
DSC: analog@inthebox.com
FRT: 44100 Hz -> 44100 Hz
GAIN IN: 0.0000 dB
1 HPF: 22.000 Hz
2 BOOST: 10.000 KHz
OUTPUT L: -192.5 dB
OUTPUT R: -192.5 dB
GAIN OUT: 0.0000 dB
INPUT L: -192.5 dB
INPUT R: -192.5 dB
7 DRIVE: 0.0000 dB
8 LIQUIDTY: 0.0000 %
PROG KERN MAST MIDI DISK
OVF
V|V|K|T VECTORIAL VOLTERRA KERNELS TECHNOLOGY
HPF BOOST DRIVE LIQDT
22.00 10.00 0.00 0.00
Hz KHz dB %

Described options can be found on the Setup Manager's toolbar and context menu.

Each tracked setup is saved into program's common folder as well (see **Nebula Setups common folder**). This means, that if you keep this folder safe, all your setups can be restored anytime, even if you wipe

and reinstall your Nebula repository from the scratch.

Backup system

As already noted, options related to setups updating are basically the same as the ones available when saving a setup with '**Save'** option. There is one additional option, though, which is unique to Setups Manager and it can not be found when saving setups regularly. It is called '**Backup file(s) before updating**'.

If checked, each file to be replaced is first **copied/backed up** to the special folder. In case something goes wrong, plugin files can be manually **copied/restored** to their original locations.

With each update operation, new folder is created under Nebula Setups common folder. Name of the folder is displayed in **Update report** window after update process has been completed.

Name of the backup folder has following format:

setups-[yyyymmddhhmmss]

The name contains type of update process (setups) and the rest of the name contains the exact date and time when the process was started. If you browse into backup folder using file explorer/finder, you'll find additional folders for each architecture (x86, x64 etc.). Inside these folders you'll find the actual plugin files (.dll, .vst, .component, .xml).

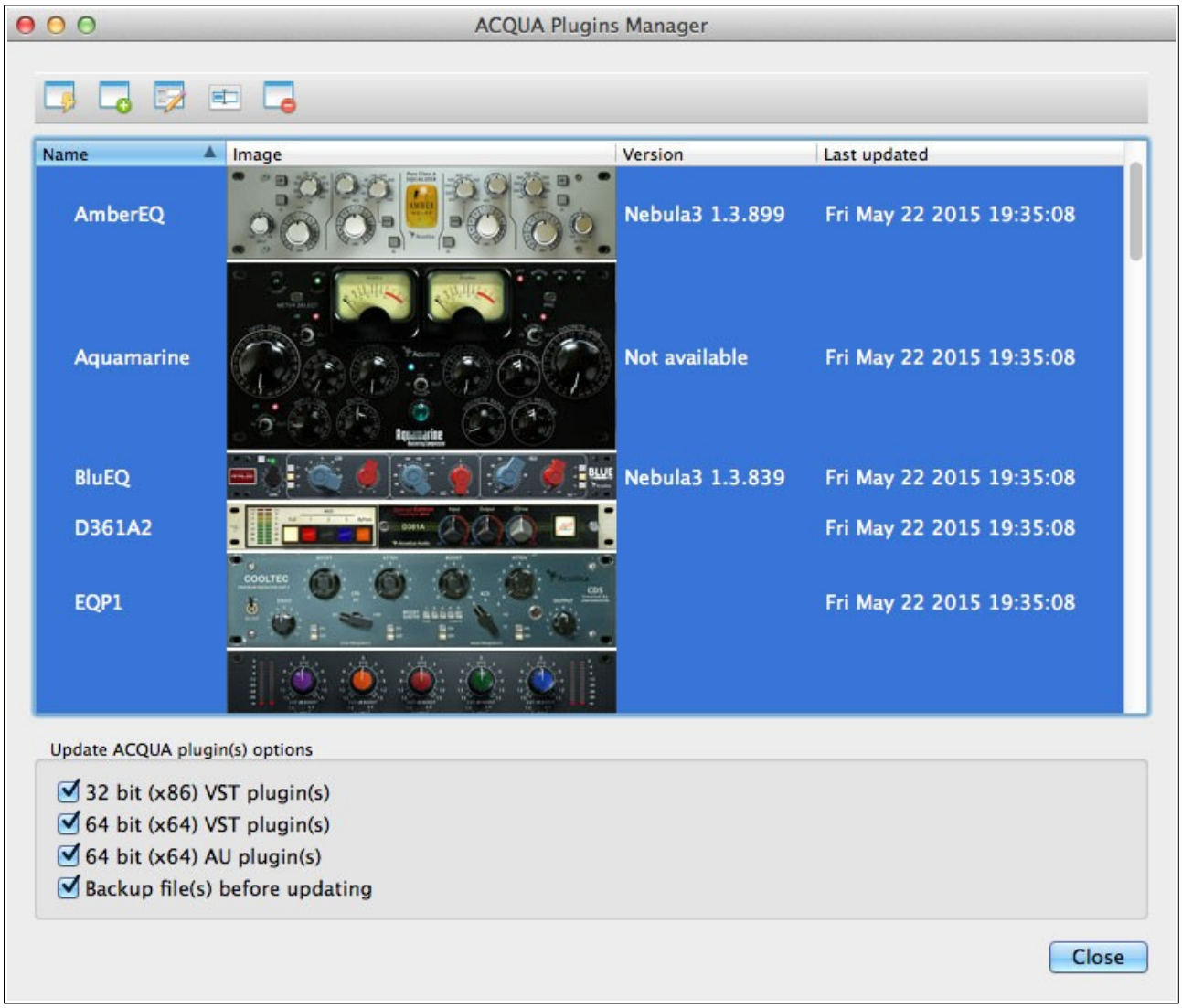
ACQUA plugins manager, described in the next chapter, uses the same backup system. The only difference is that backup folder name contains different type of update process, which is '**acqua**'.

ACQUA Plugins Manager (full version only)

A common procedure for ACQUA plugins users is updating plugin engine with the latest/updated version. Nebula Setups is able to update installed ACQUA plugins engine in a simple way, instead of endless copying and renaming files by hand.

The brand new **ACQUA plugins manager** is a place to do it (found in main toolbar and menu '**Tools/ACQUA Plugins Manager**', keyboard shortcut: [P]).

Make sure your settings are correct before proceeding – go to **Preferences window - Acqua plugins** tab and check everything is set up properly.



When opened, a list of currently supported ACQUA plugins is shown. Version info and the date of the last modification are also available for each plugin on

the list. All currently supported plugins will be listed, regardless if they are actually installed on your system. List will be regularly updated in the future according to new ACQUA plugin releases. Alternatively, you can define your own ACQUA plugin(s) if needed.

Don't be confused with a term '**ACQUA**' – what you are dealing here with are **ACQUA plugins**. Nebula/ACQUA access, described in chapter '**First start and basic setup**' has nothing to do with ACQUA plugins.

After the desired plugins are selected, you may use following options (using toolbar or mouse right-click context menu):

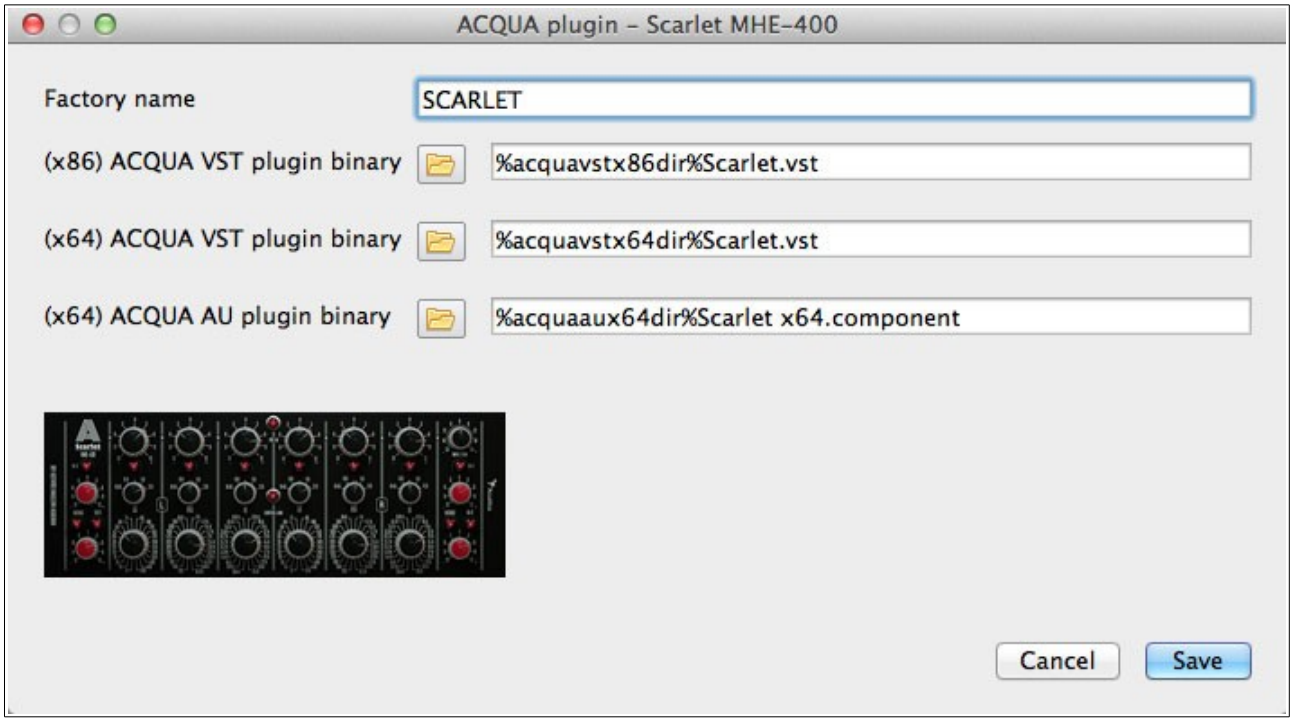
Option	Description
Update selected ACQUA plugin(s)	This will update / overwrite all selected plugins with the new ACQUA engine, specified in settings. Before update, set options found at the bottom of the window. Carefully read warnings and proceed when you are sure. When operation is completed, a list (log) of the processed plugins is displayed.
Add new ACQUA plugin	Define new ACQUA plugin. Empty edit dialog will open. See chapter '**Creating and editing ACQUA plugin description**' below.
Edit selected ACQUA plugin	Edit existing ACQUA plugin. Edit dialog with plugin description will open. See chapter '**Creating and editing ACQUA plugin description**' below. You can edit plugin data also by double clicking on desired plugin in the list.
Rename a setup	Rename currently selected plugin to a new name. Note: a single setup must be selected for this operation (renaming of multiple plugins at once is not supported).
Delete setup(s)	Delete selected plugin(s).

When editing, renaming or deleting, **actual installed ACQUA plugins are not being affected**, so you can't delete or otherwise ruin anything important. Only local plugin definitions are being affected. Contrary, when updating, actual ACQUA plugins are affected.

There are few options on the bottom, which defines architectures (x86, x64) and formats of the ACQUA plugins (VST, AU) to be updated. There is also option for optional backup of the existing files before update. See chapter '**Backup system**' for detailed explanation.

Creating and editing ACQUA plugin description

Parameters (description) of the ACQUA plugin should be specified in this window. If new plugin description is to be created, you will be prompted to enter unique plugin name first.



Available parameters are:

Parameter	Description
Factory name	If you've renamed ACQUA plugin binary file, you must specify the plugin's original factory name here. Otherwise is not required. This is to avoid some problems which could occur when plugins have a different name than the original.
(x86) ACQUA VST plugin binary	The exact location of the current 32 bit ACQUA VST plugin file.
(x64) ACQUA VST plugin binary	The exact location of the current 64 bit ACQUA VST plugin file.
(x64) ACQUA AU plugin binary	The exact location of the current 64 bit ACQUA AU plugin file (Mac OS X only).
Thumbnail	Image of plugin. Different image can be selected by double clicking on the image. Default JPG images can be found in Nebula Setups common folder – sub-folder '**\Thumbnails\AcquaPlugins**'

If **all ACQUA plugins of the same architecture, are installed in the same folder**, so called variables can be used:

Variable	Description
%acquavstx86dir%	ACQUA x86 VST plugins folder, specified in settings.
%acquavstx64dir%	ACQUA x64 VST plugins folder, specified in settings.
%acquaaux64dir%	ACQUA x64 Audio Units (AU) plugins folder, specified in settings.

In the process of updating, these variables **will be replaced with the actual values**, specified in settings.

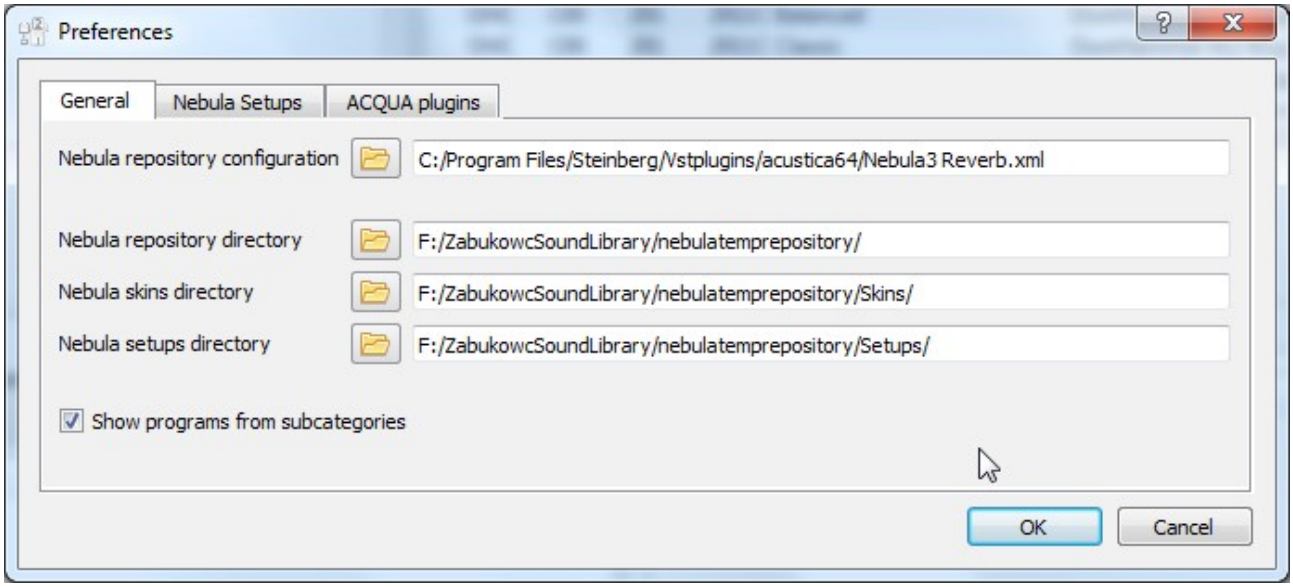
Why use variables ?

When (if) for any reason, actual plugins folder changes, you need to modify settings only. Because of variables, specified ACQUA plugin location will still remain correct, so no additional editing will be necessary.

Preferences

It is extremely important to set up preferences properly. Successful creation/updating of setups and ACQUA plugins updating is possible only, if preferences are 100% correct.

Settings windows is divided into three tabs/categories: **General**, **Nebula Setups** and **ACQUA Plugins**.



Following options are available on the '**General**' tab:

Option	Description
Nebula repository directory	The root directory of installed Nebula (click on a folder icon to select). Common value is: *Windows: c:/nebulatemprepository/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Presets/AcusticaAudio/Nebula3/*
Nebula skins directory	Directory of installed Nebula skins. Common value is: *Windows: c:/nebulatemprepository/Skins/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Presets/AcusticaAudio/Nebula3/Skins/*
Nebula setups directory	Directory of setups, used by Nebula plugin(s) Common value is: *Windows: c:/nebulatemprepository/Setups/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Presets/AcusticaAudio/Nebula3/Setups/*
Show programs from subcategories	Described in **Nebula repository browser**.

Following options are available on the '**Nebula Setups**' tab. These options are directly related to setups creation (both when saving or using Setups Manager update).

Option	Description
(x86) VST setups directory	Directory, where 32 bit Nebula VST setups/plugins are located. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files (x86)/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica/*
(x86) Base Nebula VST plugin binary	Full path of the original (base) 32 bit Nebula VST plugin. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files (x86)/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica/Nebula3 Reverb.dll* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica/Nebula3 Reverb.vst*
(x86) Base Nebula VST plugin configuration	Full path of the original (base) 32 bit Nebula VST configuration file. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files (x86)/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica/Nebula3 Reverb.xml* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica/Nebula3 Reverb.xml*
(x64) VST setups directory	Directory, where 64 bit Nebula VST setups/plugins are located. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica64/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica64/*
(x64) Base Nebula VST plugin binary	Full path of the original (base) 64 bit Nebula VST plugin. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica64/Nebula3 Reverb.dll* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica64/Nebula3 Reverb.vst*
(x64) Base Nebula VST plugin configuration	Full path of the original (base) 64 bit Nebula VST configuration file. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica/Nebula3 Reverb.xml* *OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica64/Nebula3 Reverb.xml*
(x64) AU setups directory	Mac OS X only - directory, where 64 bit Nebula AU setups/plugins are located. Common value is: */Users/{username}/Library/Audio/Plug-ins/Components/*
(x64) Base Nebula AU plugin binary	Mac OS X only - full path of the original (base) 64 bit Nebula VST plugin. Common value is: */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/Nebula3 Reverb.component*
(x64) Base Nebula	Mac OS X only - full path of the original (base) 64 bit Nebula VST

AU plugin configuration	configuration file. Common value is: */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/Nebula3 Reverb.xml*

Following options are available on the '**ACQUA plugins**' tab. These options are directly related to ACQUA plugins management (updating).

Option	Description
(x86) ACQUA VST plugins directory	Directory, where 32 bit ACQUA VST plugins are located. Use this, if all plugins are installed in the same directory - this will allow you to use variables in ACQUA plugins manager. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files (x86)/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica/*
(x86) Base ACQUA VST plugin binary	Full path of the original (base) 32 bit ACQUA VST plugin/engine, which will be used for update. Check with Acustica for the latest version.
(x64) ACQUA VST plugins directory	Directory, where 64 bit ACQUA VST plugins are located. Use this, if all plugins are installed in the same directory - this will allow you to use variables in ACQUA plugins manager. Common value is: *Windows: c:/Program Files/Steinberg/Vstplugins/Acustica64/* *Mac OS X:/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Acustica64/*
(x64) Base ACQUA VST plugin binary	Full path of the original (base) 64 bit ACQUA VST plugin/engine, which will be used for update. Check with Acustica for the latest version.
(x64) ACQUA AU plugins directory	Mac OS X only - directory, where 64 bit ACQUA AU plugins are located. Use this, if all plugins are installed in the same directory - this will allow you to use variables in ACQUA plugins manager. Common value is: */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/*
(x64) Base ACQUA AU plugin binary	Mac OS X only – 64 bit AU is actually wrapped 64 bit VST plugin. **(x64) Base ACQUA VST plugin binary** will be used.

Nebula Setups common folder

Nebula Setups is using a common folder for tracked setup files, program's settings, screen layout, thumbnails etc.

Location of the common folder:

OS	Path
Windows 7	c:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\Zabukowski\Nebula Setups\
Windows XP	c:\Documents and Settings\{username}\Application Data\
Mac OS X	/users/{username}/library/Application Support/Zabukowski/Nebula Setups

When Nebula Setups is uninstalled from your computer, common folder and its files (including user data) are **NOT** deleted.

Complete screen layout (windows, tool-bars, columns, splitters, etc.) is stored in a text (XML) file named '**nebulasetups.uilayout**'. If you have problems with the screen layout or you just want to reset it, you should delete this file. It will be recreated the next time you start Nebula Setups.

Text (XML) file '**nebulasetups.settings** contains program settings. If necessary, it can be edited, using programs like Notepad, TextEdit etc.

Appendix A: Important keyboard shortcuts

Keyboard shortcut	Description
[C]	Add program(s) from selected category (including all subcategories) to the setup editor.
[A]	Add selected program(s) from the browser's program list to the setup editor.
[M]	Setups Manager
[Backspace]	Delete selected program(s) from setup editor, delete selected tweak(s)
[Command]/[Ctrl]+[D]	Unset default (auto-load) program in setup editor
[Command]/[Ctrl]+[A]	Select all items in the list (programs, tweaks)
[Command]/[Ctrl]+[C]	Copy selected tweaks to clipboard (Tweaks list)
[Command]/[Ctrl]+[V]	Paste tweaks from clipboard (Tweaks list)